

Appl. No. 09/756,738
Amtd. dated March 29, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner:

Claims 2, 4, 9, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base
5 claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the
limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response:

The Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the allowance of claims 2, 4, 9, and
10 11 if rewritten appropriately. Therefore, the limitations of claim 4 have been added to
independent claim 1 and claim 4 has been cancelled. The limitations of claim 2, plus the
words "the number of" have been added to independent claim 15. As the core
limitations of amended independent claim 15 now mirror the core limitations of claim 1,
it is believed that amended claim 15 does not introduce new issues and will be
15 considered allowable by the Examiner. Additionally, the limitations of claim 11 have
been added to independent claim 8 and claim 11 has been cancelled. The limitations of
claim 9, plus the words "the number of" have been added to independent claim 17. As
the core limitations of amended claim 17 now mirror the core limitations of claim 8, it is
believed that amended claim 17 does not introduce new issues and will also be
20 considered allowable by the Examiner. No new material has been introduced.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance
and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the
application.

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Sincerely yours,



Date: March 29, 2005

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